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Resolution adopted by the Economic and Social Council on 2 June 2016

[*on the recommendation of the Commission for Social Development (E/2016/26)*]

2016/8. Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world

The Economic and Social Council,

Recalling its resolution 2014/3 of 12 June 2014, in which it decided that the priority theme for the 2015–2016 review and policy cycle of the Commission for Social Development would be "Rethinking and strengthening social development in the contemporary world",

Recalling also the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session[2] constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all at the national and international levels, and encouraging the continued global dialogue on social development issues,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching and people-centred set of universal and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets and affirmed its commitment to working tirelessly for the full implementation of this Agenda by 2030, its recognition that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development, and its commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – in a balanced and integrated manner,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 69/313 of 27 July 2015 on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, which is an integral part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, supports and complements it, helps to contextualize its means of

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

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implementation targets with concrete policies and actions, and reaffirms the strong political commitment to address the challenge of financing and creating an enabling environment at all levels for sustainable development in the spirit of global partnership and solidarity,

Reaffirming that the internationally agreed development goals and the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits provide a comprehensive basis for action at the national, regional and international levels, with the key objectives of poverty eradication, sustained economic growth and sustainable development, and recognizing the need to strengthen political impetus in their implementation and follow-up to their outcomes,

Noting with concern the uneven progress achieved, that major gaps remain and that obstacles persist in fulfilling the commitments made at the World Summit for Social Development and that there are rising inequalities within and among many countries,

Reaffirming that empowerment and participation are important for social development and that sustainable development requires the meaningful involvement and active participation of all, particularly those who are vulnerable or marginalized, with due regard to the need for the full and equal participation of women and girls,

Recognizing that nationally appropriate social protection systems can make a critical contribution to the realization of human rights for all, in particular for those who are trapped in poverty and those who are vulnerable or marginalized and subject to discrimination, and that promoting universal access to social services and providing nationally appropriate social protection floors can contribute to addressing and reducing poverty, inequality and social exclusion and promoting inclusive economic growth,

Acknowledging that good governance and the rule of law at the national and international levels are essential for sustained, inclusive and equitable economic growth, sustainable development and the eradication of poverty and are mutually reinforcing,

Recalling that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognized that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion are linked to each other and are interdependent,

Recalling also that quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data will be needed to help with the measurement of progress and to ensure that no one is left behind,

Recognizing that the mobilization of domestic and international resources for social development and their effective use are central to a global partnership for development in support of the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including the Sustainable Development Goals,

1. *Takes note* of the report of the Secretary-General;[3]

2. *Recognizes* that the implementation of the Copenhagen commitments[1] and the attainment of the internationally agreed development goals are mutually

[3] E/CN.5/2016/3.

reinforcing and that the Copenhagen commitments are crucial to a coherent people-centred approach to development;

3. *Also recognizes* that poverty eradication, full and productive employment and decent work for all, including promoting social dialogue, and social integration are interrelated and mutually reinforcing, that an internal and external enabling environment therefore needs to be created so that these objectives can be pursued simultaneously and that policies to pursue these objectives must promote social justice, social cohesion, intergenerational solidarity and economic recovery and growth, and must be economically, socially and environmentally sustainable;

4. *Emphasizes* that the international community, through the outcome documents of the major United Nations conferences and summits, including of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,[2] the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[4] and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[5] has reinforced the urgency of eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, combating inequality within and among countries, preserving the planet, creating sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth and fostering social inclusion within the United Nations development agenda;

5. *Stresses* that Member States should take all measures necessary in order to leave no one behind, while respecting the human rights of all and promoting social protection and equal access to quality essential public services for all, such as quality education and health care, including maternity care and social care services, and recognizes that this involves the active participation of every member of society, without discrimination, in civic, social, economic, cultural and political activities and in decision-making processes;

6. *Reaffirms* the commitment to achieving gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls, including through the mainstreaming of a gender perspective into all development efforts, and recognizes that these will make a crucial contribution to progress across all of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, to strengthen policies and programmes that improve, ensure and broaden the full and equal participation of women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, to improve their access to and remove barriers from all resources needed for the full exercise of all human rights and fundamental freedoms, including ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work, to ensure access to quality education for women and girls to strengthen their economic independence, and to improve access to equal opportunities with men and boys in employment, leadership and decision-making at all levels, which is essential for poverty eradication and the empowerment of women and girls;

7. *Encourages* Governments, with the cooperation of relevant entities, including social partners and civil society, to continue to develop, improve, extend and implement inclusive, effective, fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including social protection floors, based on national priorities, for all members of society including those who are vulnerable or marginalized, and in this regard takes note of International Labour Organization Recommendation No. 202 on social protection floors;

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[4] General Assembly resolution 70/1.

[5] General Assembly resolution 69/313, annex.

8. *Stresses* that special efforts should be made to foster the participation of all members of society, including people living in poverty and those who are vulnerable or marginalized, in all aspects of political, economic, social, civic and cultural life, in particular the planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, as appropriate, of policies that affect them;

9. *Invites* Governments to enhance the capacity of the public administration and public services to be transparent, accountable, proactive and responsive to the needs and aspirations of all people, without discrimination of any kind, and to foster broad-based participation in governance and development processes;

10. *Underlines* the importance of adopting a coherent approach to social, economic and environmental policy, in order to ensure impact, accountability and transparency, and of enhancing coordination to achieve sustainable, inclusive development;

11. *Recognizes* that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides for a more integrated and cross-sectoral approach to sustainable development, and also recognizes that social development covers a coherent set of policies and services grounded in sustainability, equity and inclusion, rather than a series of discrete, isolated or subject-specific initiatives;

12. *Calls upon* States to promote more equitable participation in and access to economic growth gains, such as through policies that aim to ensure inclusive labour markets, socially responsive macroeconomic policies in which the creation of more and better job opportunities has a key role and social inclusion strategies that promote social integration, and by providing fiscally sustainable and nationally appropriate social protection systems, including floors, for all members of society, including those who are vulnerable or marginalized;

13. *Recognizes* that the creation of full and productive employment and decent work should be a central objective of national policies and that macroeconomic policies should contribute to creating more and better job opportunities and an environment that supports investment, growth and entrepreneurship, which is essential for the creation of new jobs, and calls for the respect, promotion and realization of fundamental principles and rights at work, in accordance with the International Labour Organization Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work;

14. *Emphasizes* the importance of mainstreaming disability issues as an integral part of relevant sustainable development strategies;

15. *Recognizes* that each country has primary responsibility for its own economic and social development and that significant additional domestic public resources, supplemented by international assistance, as appropriate, will be critical to realizing sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, and also recognizes the commitment to enhance revenue administration, in particular through modernized, progressive tax systems, improved tax policy and more efficient tax collection;

16. *Also recognizes*, in this regard, that national development efforts, including social development efforts, need to be supported by an enabling international economic environment, including coherent and mutually supporting world trade, monetary and financial systems and strengthened and enhanced global economic governance;

17. *Encourages* developed countries to implement their official development assistance commitments, including the commitment by many developed countries to achieve the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of gross national income for official development assistance to the least developed countries;

18. *Welcomes* the increased contributions of South-South cooperation to poverty eradication and sustainable development, encourages developing countries to voluntarily step up their efforts to strengthen South-South cooperation and to further improve its development effectiveness in accordance with the provisions of the Nairobi outcome document of the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation,[6] and recalls the commitment to strengthening triangular cooperation as a means of bringing relevant experience and expertise to bear in development cooperation;

19. *Encourages* Member States, the United Nations system and all relevant stakeholders to improve data collection, analysis and monitoring to measure progress in advancing equality, social justice and participation for development policy planning, implementation and evaluation, taking regional contexts fully into account, and to share, where appropriate, relevant data and statistics with relevant agencies and bodies within the United Nations system, including the Statistical Commission, through appropriate mechanisms, and underlines the need to significantly increase the availability of high-quality, timely and reliable disaggregated data;

20. *Encourages* the international community to intensify efforts to strengthen statistical capacities in developing countries to collect disaggregated data, particularly African countries, the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, while recognizing the specific challenges facing middle-income countries;

21. *Encourages* States to engage in the preparatory process for the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and to consider the objectives of poverty eradication, social inclusion and decent work for all in the New Urban Agenda, with a view to mobilizing all levels of government in the promotion of social development;

22. *Urges* Member States to continue to give prominence to strengthening social development, in particular to eradicating poverty and reducing inequalities, supporting the creation of full and productive employment and decent work for all and promoting social inclusion;

23. *Requests* the United Nations system to continue to support national efforts to strengthen social development at the local, national, subregional, regional and international levels in a coherent, coordinated and results-based manner.

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2 June 2016

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[6] General Assembly resolution 64/222, annex.